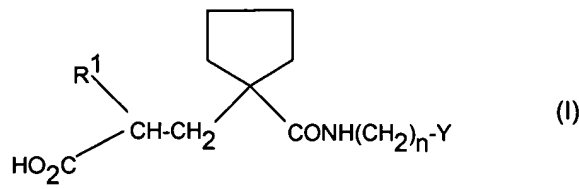


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Withdrawn)
2. (currently amended) A compound of formula (I),



wherein

R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl which may be substituted by one or more substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from the list: halo, hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, C₂₋₆ hydroxyalkoxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxy(C₁₋₆alkoxy), C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkenyl, aryl, aryloxy, (C₁₋₄alkoxy)aryloxy, heterocyclyl, heterocyclloxy, -NR²R³, -NR⁴COR⁵, -NR⁴SO₂R⁵, -CONR²R³, -S(O)_pR⁶, -COR⁷ and -CO₂(C₁₋₄alkyl); or R¹ is C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl, each of which may be substituted by one or more substituents from said list, which substituents may be the same or different, which list further includes C₁₋₆alkyl; or R¹ is C₁₋₆ alkoxy, -NR²R³ or -NR⁴SO₂R⁵;

Wherein

R² and R³ are each independently H, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl (optionally substituted by hydroxy or C₁₋₄alkoxy), aryl, (C₁₋₄alkyl)aryl, C₁₋₆alkoxyaryl or heterocyclyl; or R² and R³ together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidino, morpholino, piperazinyl or N-(C₁₋₄alkyl)piperazinyl group;

R⁴ is H or C₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁵ is C₁₋₄alkyl, CF₃, aryl, (C₁₋₄alkyl)aryl, (C₁₋₄alkoxy)aryl, heterocyclyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy or -NR²R³ wherein R² and R³ are as previously defined;

R⁶ is C₁₋₄alkyl, aryl, heterocyclyl or NR²R³ wherein R² and R³ are as previously defined; and

R⁷ is C₁₋₄alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl;

p is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

n is 0, 1 or 2;

the $-(CH_2)_n-$ linkage is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkyl substituted with one or more fluoro groups or phenyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy(C_{1-3} alkyl), C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl;

Y is an optionally substituted 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring, which may be saturated, unsaturated or aromatic and contains a nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur and optionally one, two or three further nitrogen atoms in the ring and which may be optionally benzofused and optionally substituted by:

C_{1-6} alkoxy; hydroxy; oxo; amino; mono or di-(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino;

C_{1-4} alkanoylamino; or

C_{1-6} alkyl which may be substituted by one or more substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from the list: C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, halogen, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or phenyl; or

C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, aryl or heterocyclyl, each of which may be substituted by one or more substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from the list: C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} haloalkoxy, C_{1-6} alkylthio, halogen, C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, heterocyclyl or phenyl;

wherein when there is an oxo substitution on the heterocyclic ring, the ring only contains one or two nitrogen atoms and the oxo substitution is adjacent a nitrogen atom in the ring;

pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein R^1 , n and Y are as defined in claim 1 with the proviso that when R^1 is propyl or phenylethyl, R^{14} is not $-CH_2OH$.

3. (Previously presented) A compound of formula (I), pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein R^1 , n and Y are as defined in claim 1 with the proviso that R^{14} is not H or $-CH_2OH$.

4. (original) A compound according to claim 2, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein R^1 is C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} alkoxy(C_{1-3} alkyl), C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-6} alkoxy C_{1-3} alkyl or C_{1-6} alkyl substituted with aryl.

5 (original) A compound according to claim 4, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, C₁₋₆alkoxy(C₁₋₃)alkyl or C₁₋₆alkoxyC₁₋₆alkoxyC₁₋₃alkyl.

6 (original) A compound according to claim 5, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein R¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl or C₁₋₆alkoxy(C₁₋₃)alkyl.

7-13. (withdrawn)

14. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein Y is an optionally substituted 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring.

15. (original) A compound according to claim 14, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein the 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring is an optionally substituted aromatic ring.

16. (original) A compound according to claim 15, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein said aromatic ring is pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, oxadiazolyl, thiazolyl, thiadiazolyl, oxazolyl, isoxazolyl, indolyl, isoindolinyl, quinolyl, isoquinolyl, pyridonyl, quinoxalinyl or quinazolinyl each of which may be substituted as defined in claim 1.

17. (original) A compound according to claim 16, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein the aromatic ring is oxadiazole, pyridone or thiadiazole each of which may be substituted as defined in claim 1.

18. (original) A compound according to claim 17, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein the aromatic ring is 1,2,5-oxadiazole, 1,3,4-oxadiazole, 2-pyridone or 1,3,4-thiadiazole each of which may be substituted as defined in claim 1.

19. (original) A compound according to claim 14, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein the 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring is substituted by one or more C₁₋₆alkyl, phenyl or phenylC₁₋₄alkyl.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 19, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein the 5-7 membered heterocyclic ring is substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl or benzyl.

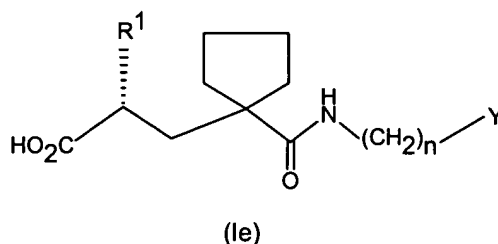
21. (original) A compound according to claim 17, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein when Y is a pyridone said pyridone is *N*-substituted pyridone.

Claims 22-23 (withdrawn)

24. (original) A compound according to claim 2, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ are hydrogen.

25. (original) A compound according to claim 2, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, wherein t is 0.

26. (original) A compound of formula Ie, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof,



wherein R¹, Y and n are as defined in claim 2.

27. (previously presented) A compound, pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvates, polymorphs or prodrugs thereof, selected from the group consisting of:

2-[(1-[(1-benzyl-6-oxo-1,6-dihydro-3-pyridinyl)amino]carbonyl)cyclopentyl]-methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid;

2-[[1-([3-(2-oxo-1-pyrrolidinyl)propyl]amino)carbonylcyclopentyl]-methyl]-4-phenylbutanoic acid);

(+)-2-[[1-([2-(hydroxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl]amino)carbonyl)cyclopentyl]-methyl]-4-phenylbutanoic acid;

2-[(1-[(5-methyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl)amino]carbonyl)cyclopentyl]-methyl]-4-phenylbutanoic acid;

(+)-2-[[1-([2-(hydroxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-methyl]pentanoic acid;

(2*R*)-2-[[1-([5-ethyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-methyl]pentanoic acid or (-)-2-[[1-([5-ethyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-methyl]pentanoic acid;

(2*S*)-2-[[1-([5-ethyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-methyl]pentanoic acid or (+)-2-[[1-([5-ethyl-1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-methyl]pentanoic acid ;

2-[[1-([1-benzyl-6-oxo-1,6-dihydro-3-pyridinyl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-methyl]pentanoic acid ;

3-[1-([5-benzyl-[1,3,4]-thiadiazol-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-2-(methoxyethyl)propanoic acid ;

3-[1-([4-butylpyridin-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-2-(methoxyethyl)propanoic acid ;

3-[1-([4-phenylpyridin-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]-2-(methoxyethyl)propanoic acid ;

2-[[1-([2-(hydroxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid ;

(*R*)- 2-[[1-([2-(hydroxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid ; and

(*S*)-2-[[1-([2-(hydroxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-1*H*-inden-2-yl]amino)carbonyl]cyclopentyl]methyl]-4-methoxybutanoic acid.

28. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the female sexual dysfunction treated includes at least female sexual arousal dysfunction (FSAD).

29. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the medicament is administered systemically.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 1 wherein the medicament is administered orally.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of a condition for which a beneficial therapeutic response can be obtained by the inhibition of neutral endopeptidase comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 2.

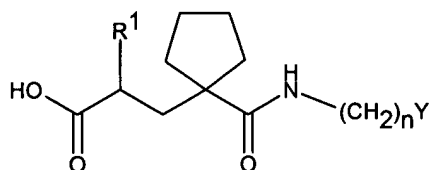
32. (Previously Cancelled)

33. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound as defined in claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

34. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of female sexual dysfunction comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as defined in claim 2.

35. (Previously Cancelled)

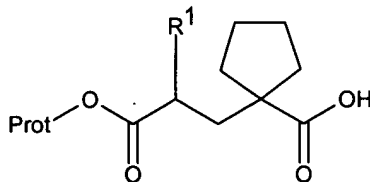
36. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of formula I or salts thereof



(I)

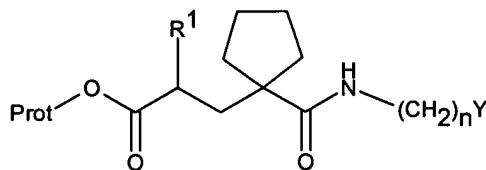
wherein R¹, n and Y are as defined in any one of claims 2 to 27, comprising the steps of:

a) reacting a compound of formula II



(II)

wherein Prot is a suitable protecting group, with a compound of formula Y(CH₂)_nNH₂ (III), to give a compound of formula IV,

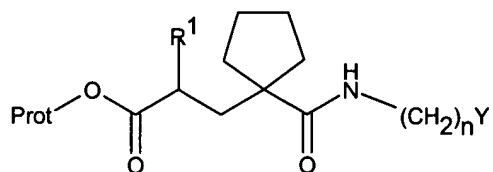


(IV)

then

- b) reacting the compound of formula IV under suitable deprotecting conditions to give the compound of formula I; then
- c) optionally forming a salt.

37. (original) A compound of formula IV



(IV)

wherein R¹, n, and Y are as defined in claim 2 and wherein Prot is a protecting group.